

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Minutes and Informal Instructions of the Open Meeting of Wednesday, January 8, 2020

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) met as noticed. Present were Chairperson Valcq, Commissioner Nowak and Commissioner Huebsch.

Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes of the open meeting of Thursday, December 19, 2019.

5-AE-215 - Application of American Transmission Company LLC and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation for Approval of an Affiliated Interest Arrangement - Multi Party Facilities Construction Agreement

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

1505-CW-103 - Application of the Village of Curtiss, as a Water Public Utility, for Authority to Construct a Non-Routine Meter Replacement Project, in the Village of Curtiss, Clark County, Wisconsin

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

4220-SB-138 - Application of Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, for Authority to Issue and Sell up to \$350 Million Aggregate Principal Amount of Debt Securities in One or More Series

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

4660-SB-107 - Application of Pioneer Power and Light Company for Authority to Issue a \$250,000 Line of Credit

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

6700-ER-105 - Application of the City of Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin, as an Electric Public Utility, for Authority to Adjust Electric Rates

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

570-WR-104 - Application of the Village of Blanchardville, Lafayette and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Authority to Adjust Water Rates

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

4140-WR-103 - Application of the City of New Richmond, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Authority to Adjust Water Rates

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

5720-WR-103 - Application of the Village of Stoddard, Vernon County, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Authority to Adjust Water Rates

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

3720-CC-224352 - Request for Formal Review of Complaint Filed by Janice Porter Against Milwaukee Water Works

The Commission denied Ms. Janice Porter's request for a formal review of her complaint against Milwaukee Water Works.

The Commission directed the Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

4220-CE-182 - Application of Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin for a Certificate of Authority to Construct the Bayfield Second Circuit Transmission Project, to be Located in Bayfield County, Wisconsin

The Commission discussed the application filed by Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSPW) for authority to construct the Bayfield Second Circuit Transmission Project, and made the following determinations:

1. All of the uncontested alternatives in the Final Decision Matrix ([PSC REF#: 380932](#)) were accepted.
2. The proposed project meets the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 196.49(3)(b) and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 112.

3. No Energy Priority Law alternatives exist that are cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound alternatives to the proposed project.
4. The Commission authorizes the East route for the proposed project.
5. In addition to the standard conditions applicable to construction projects, the following shall apply as a condition of approval:
 - a. NSPW shall work with Commission staff and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (DNR) to address bird mitigation strategies.
 - b. NSPW shall work with DNR's National Heritage Conservation (NHC) program to develop plans regarding the referenced rare plant species.
 - c. NSPW shall work with DNR to address avoidance and minimization strategies for rare plant and bird species based on site-specific features and impacts.
 - d. NSPW shall work with DNR to minimize impacts or incorporate buffers along the edges of referenced natural communities, as well as incorporating invasive species best management practices.
 - e. NSPW shall schedule tree clearing and implement slash management procedures to prevent the spread of oak wilt, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth in forested areas that would be cleared of tall growing trees.
 - f. NSPW shall release all areas described in NSPW's existing easement in the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, aside from the geographically smaller area required to safely and effectively maintain NSPW's current near-term electric system facilities.
 - g. NSPW shall work with the DNR to identify measures in DNR's Endangered Resources Review and to work with the DNR to incorporate recommendations regarding those specific measures.
 - h. NSPW shall work with landowners or agricultural operations to reduce or mitigate impacts.
 - i. NSPW shall obtain all necessary federal, state, and local permits prior to starting construction.
 - j. NSPW may propose minor route adjustments (MRA) in the approved route for the protection of social, cultural, or environmental resources, but any changes in

alignment from the approved centerline may not affect resources or cause impacts not discussed in the final Environmental Assessment, nor may they affect new landowners who have not been given proper notice and hearing opportunity. NSPW shall consult with Commission staff regarding whether the change rises to the level where Commission review and approval is appropriate. For each proposed MRA for which Commission review is appropriate, NSPW shall submit for Commission staff review and approval a letter describing: the nature of the requested change; the reason for it; the incremental cost; environmental impact differences based on the approved route; NSPW's communications with the affected landowners; documentation of discussions with other agencies regarding the change; and a map showing the approved route and the proposed modification, property boundaries, relevant natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and other sensitive areas. Approval of the requests is delegated to the Administrator of the Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis.

- k. NSPW shall work with DNR to avoid waterways or minimize waterway impacts.
 - l. NSPW shall work with DNR avoid wetlands or minimize wetland impacts.
 - m. NSPW shall follow through on the commitments it has made in in the record for the Commission's consideration in this docket.
6. The Commission granted, with conditions, a certificate of authority for the proposed project.

The Commission directed the Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steffany Powell Coker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steffany Powell Coker
Secretary to the Commission